

R381-70-13. CHILD SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION.

This section introduces the rules and information about preventing physical injury and other harm to children. These rules apply to both the indoor and outdoor areas of the facility including vehicles when they are accessible to the children.

To keep children safe, the provider is responsible to 1) ensure that the child care environment is free of hazards and/or that hazards are inaccessible to children, and 2) provide necessary supervision in preventing harm to children.

Refer to 70-2(28) for the definition of inaccessible and approved ways of making hazards inaccessible.

- (1) The provider shall ensure that the building, outdoor area, toys, and equipment are used in a safe manner and as intended by the manufacturer to prevent injury to children.**

Rationale/Explanation

The provider has a duty to protect everyone in their facility by complying with manufacturer safety guidelines. Manufacturer instructions contain important safety information that helps avoid injury and property damage. Additionally, not using a product according to manufacturer instructions can be used against the provider if an accident occurred and legal action was taken.

Ultimately, carefully planned environments; staffing that supports nurturing, individualized, and engaged caregiving; and well-planned, responsive care routines support active supervision in environments. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 2.2.0.1 p.p. 69.

Compliance Guidelines

This rule will be considered out of compliance when a child or adult is allowed to use the building, a toy, equipment, or another item in an unsafe way (for example, a child goes down the slide head first and a staff member does not immediately address the situation).

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

(2) The provider shall ensure that poisonous and harmful plants are inaccessible to children.

Rationale/Explanation

Plants are among the most common household substances that children ingest. Determining the toxicity of every commercially available household plant is difficult. A more reasonable approach is to keep any unknown plant out of the environment that children use. All outdoor plants and their leaves, fruit, and stems should be considered potentially toxic. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.2.9.10 p.p. 249.

Compliance Guidelines

Poisonous and harmful plants must be made inaccessible to children both in the indoor play environment and in the outdoor play area.

For a list of poisonous and harmful plants, refer to the [Utah Poison Control Center](#)

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

(3) The provider shall ensure that razors and other similar blades are inaccessible to children.

Rationale/Explanation

Equipment, materials, furnishings, and play areas should be sturdy, safe, and in good repair and should meet the recommendations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for control of safety hazards including sharp points or corners. CFOC 4th ed. Standards 5.3.1.1 - 5.3.1.2 p.p. 253-254.

Compliance Guidelines

This rule applies to various kinds of razors and blades including:

- Electric razors with exposed blades
- Sharp knives.
- Box cutters
- A plugged-in fan without a finger guard that prevents a child's fingers from reaching the blades
- Plugged-in paper shredders without a finger guard
- Yard tools, such as garden shears and pruners

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

- (4) The provider shall ensure that strangulation hazards such as ropes, cords, chains, and wires attached to a structure and long enough to encircle a child's neck are inaccessible to children.**

Rationale/Explanation

Strings and cords (such as those found on window coverings) long enough to encircle a child's neck should not be accessible to children in child care. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 3.4.6.1 p.p. 138.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has alerted parents, caregivers, and health care professionals that necklaces, bracelets, and other jewelry marketed for relieving teething pain or for providing sensory stimulation should not be used. Such use could lead to strangulation, choking, serious injuries, or death. For more information, refer to the [Food and Drug Administration](#).

Compliance Guidelines

Examples of noncompliance include:

- Window covering cords or chains that are accessible to children (hanging within 48 inches of the floor).
- Ropes, cords, chains, or wires that are attached to structures, such as railings, fences, and decks, and are hanging within 48 inches of the floor or ground.
- Ropes, cords, chains, or wires that are longer than 12 inches and can make a loop 5 inches or greater in diameter and are attached to secure objects.

It is not out of compliance if:

- Children play with lacing cards, stringing beads, yarn, ribbon, boondoggle, scarves, string, shoelaces, jump ropes, dress-up clothing with ties, purses with straps, and hanging jewelry.
- Children are properly strapped into feeding tables or highchairs with nylon safety straps.
- Lanyards and necklaces are used.
- There are accessible loose jump ropes.
- An electrical cord is plugged in (even when the cord is longer than 12 inches).

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

- (5) The provider shall ensure that tripping hazards such as unsecured flooring, rugs with curled edges, or cords in walkways are inaccessible to children.**

Rationale/Explanation

Inside and outside stairs, ramps, porches, and other walkways to the structure should be constructed for safe use as required by the local building code and should be kept in sound condition, well-lighted, and in good repair. Prevention of slipping and tripping hazards is key to preventing injuries from falls. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.1.6.2 p.p. 223.

Compliance Guidelines

- This rule will be assessed in all areas used by children.
- Tripping hazards include:
 - Defective flooring with uneven edges coming up more than 1/4 inch from the floor level.
 - Rugs with curled edges of more than 1/4 inch above the rug level.
 - Electrical and other cords that are in or across indoor and outdoor walkways.

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

(6) The provider shall ensure that exits are free of any blocking objects.

Rationale/Explanation

Entrances and exits should be free of hazards and objects that would block and prevent a safe and timely exit from the building, especially in case of an emergency. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.5.0.7 p.p. 274.

Compliance Guidelines

- Objects may be placed in front of a door or opening to a room, as long as there is at least one other doorway from the room that is not blocked and could be used in an emergency.
- Objects may not block exits even when they are low and can be stepped over.
- Objects must be far enough away from a door that if the door were to open inward, there would be enough clearance for the door to fully open (or swing 180 degrees).

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

(7) The provider shall ensure that standing water that measures two inches or deeper and five by five inches or greater in diameter is inaccessible to children

Rationale/Explanation

Small children can drown within thirty seconds, in as little as two inches of liquid. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages one to fourteen. In 2006, approximately 1,100 children under the age of twenty in the U.S. died from drowning.

Compliance Guidelines

The following is a list of common places standing water may be found:

- Buckets (including mop buckets) and other containers
- Coolers and ice chests
- Water features such as fountains, birdbaths, etc.
- Garbage cans or other similar containers
- Wheelbarrows
- Bathtubs

The following is not considered to be standing water:

- Water being used as part of a supervised project such as painting on the sidewalk with water
- Water in a water table
- Temporary puddles on the ground caused by weather or sprinklers
- Animal water bowls or enclosed water dispensers, unless the water is served in a bucket
- Toilets
- Fish bowls, fish tanks, and aquariums (except for fish ponds and similar water features)

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning

- (8) The provider shall ensure that toxic or hazardous chemicals such as cleaners, insecticides, lawn products, and flammable, corrosive, and reactive materials are:
- (a) inaccessible to children;
 - (b) used according to manufacturer instructions;
 - (c) stored in containers labeled with the contents of the container; and
 - (d) disposed of properly.

Rationale/Explanation

Inaccessible

There are over two million human poison exposures reported to poison centers every year. Children under six years of age account for over half of those potential poisonings. The

substances most commonly involved in poison exposures of children are cosmetics and personal care products, cleaning substances, and medications. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.2.9.1 p.p. 243.

Flammable materials such as chemicals and cleaners account for the majority of burns to the head and face of children. These materials are also involved in unintentional ingestion by children. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.5.0.5 p.p. 274.

Used According to Instructions

Children must be protected from exposure to pesticides. To prevent contamination and poisoning, child care staff must be sure that these chemicals are applied by individuals who are licensed and certified to do so. Exposure to pesticides has been linked to learning and developmental disorders. Direct observation of pesticide application by child care staff is essential to guide the pest management professional away from surfaces that children can touch or mouth and to monitor for drifting of pesticides into these areas. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.2.8.1 p.p. 242.

Stored in Labeled Containers

Staff should always read the label prior to use to determine safety in use. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.2.9.3. pp. 244. Rubbing alcohol looks like water. Even small amounts are poisonous to children. Rubbing alcohol can also be toxic when inhaled. It should be used in a well-ventilated area. In addition, because it is flammable, it should always be kept away from open flame.

www.poison.org.

Disposed of Properly

Infectious and toxic wastes should be stored separately from other wastes, and should be disposed of in a manner approved by the regulatory health authority. This practice provides for safe storage and disposal of infectious and toxic wastes. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.2.7.7 p.p. 241

Compliance Guidelines

- Toiletries (products used to clean and/or groom one's body, including hair dye) are not required to be inaccessible. This includes hand sanitizers, even those containing alcohol.
- Aerosol cans must be inaccessible.
- Nail polish remover, and contact lens cleaner solutions will be considered chemicals and have to be made inaccessible to children.
- Cleaners such as dish soap and laundry detergent, that are not intended to be used on one's body, must be inaccessible to children. However, dish soap and borax may be used for educational purposes only in a carefully supervised activity. This means a staff member is within arm's reach of the children and providing constant, active supervision; and the staff member does not leave until the materials are made inaccessible.
- A cleaning bucket that contains a chemical and is in use does not need to be labeled with its

contents.

- A bucket does not need to be labeled if used to carry or store labeled containers of chemicals.
- Disinfecting wipes or another sanitizing solution on a changing table will not be considered out of compliance as long as the changing table meets the definition of inaccessible.
- Gasoline and other similar products enclosed in a vehicle or equipment, such as a lawnmower, are not considered accessible.
- Paint and other substances in a sealed can are considered inaccessible if the lid is securely attached and can only be opened with a tool.
- A cleaner that is attached to the inside of a toilet bowl is not considered accessible.
- Batteries are corrosive. Loose batteries or batteries not currently in a battery powered device, must be inaccessible to children.

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

(10) The provider shall ensure that live electrical wires are inaccessible to children

Compliance Guidelines

- Exposed electrical wires (the metal is exposed) will be considered live. They will be treated as if electrical current is running through them and will not be tested to determine compliance.

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning

(11) Unless used and stored in compliance with the Utah Concealed Weapons Act or as otherwise allowed by law, the provider shall ensure that firearms such as guns, muzzleloaders, rifles, shotguns, hand guns, pistols, and automatic guns are:

- (a) locked in a cabinet or area using a key, combination lock, or fingerprint lock; and**
- (b) stored unloaded and separate from ammunition.**

Rationale/Explanation

Approximately 20,000 children are taken to emergency departments for firearm-related injuries every year and the majority of these injuries are accidental. Younger children are more likely to be unintentionally injured, and the majority of these accidental shootings occur in homes. It is critical that firearms be properly locked. "Pediatric Firearm-Related Injuries in the United States" (Parikh K, et al. Hosp Pediatr. May 23, 2017).

Compliance Guidelines

- Guns that are dismantled and do not contain a trigger mechanism are not considered a firearm.
- Firearms must be stored unloaded. Ammunition may be stored in the same area as the firearm as long as the area is locked according to rule.
- When a gun that cannot be fired is used as decoration, the provider can apply for a variance that includes documentation from a gunsmith that the specific gun cannot be fired.
- Firearms must be locked according to rule. Using an alternate type of lock, such as a trigger lock or a lock that is controlled by swiping an app on a cell phone, is out of compliance.
- CCL staff will observe where each firearm on the property is stored, including firearms stored in outbuildings and vehicles.
- If a firearm is stored in a vehicle that is not used to transport children, the vehicle must be locked with a key or keypad.
- If a firearm is stored in a vehicle that is used to transport children, the firearm must be locked with a key, combination lock, or fingerprint lock within the vehicle.

Risk Level

Extreme

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP when:

A firearm is accessible to children.

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning otherwise.

(12) The provider shall ensure that weapons such as paintball guns, BB guns, airsoft guns, sling shots, arrows, and mace are inaccessible to children.

Rationale/Explanation

The potential for injury to and death of young children due to firearms is apparent. These items should not be accessible to children in a facility CFOC 4th ed. Standard 9.2.3.16 p.p. 392.

Compliance Guidelines

- A weapon is defined as an item for which the intended use can cause harm or death to people or animals.
- CCL staff will observe where each weapon on the property is stored, including weapons stored in outbuildings and vehicles.

- Bows (if arrows are inaccessible) can be accessible.
- Crossbows (with or without arrows) must be inaccessible.
- Arrows must be inaccessible.

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning

(13) The provider shall ensure that alcohol, illegal substances, and sexually explicit material are inaccessible, and not used on the premises, during offsite activities, or in center vehicles any time a child is in care.

Rationale/Explanation

Alcohol, illegal substances, and sexually explicit material must be inaccessible to prevent potential ingestion or exposure. The age, defenselessness, and dependence upon the judgment of caregivers/teachers of the children under care make this prohibition an absolute requirement. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 3.4.1.1 p.p. 127.

Compliance Guidelines

- In addition to making sexually explicit materials inaccessible to children, the facility must be free of any depiction of nudity in a lascivious manner through pictures, posters, media, etc., while children are in care.
- The facility must be free of any illegal substances. Illegal substances are any items that by law are not allowed to be produced, consumed, sold, or present in the facility.
- Alcohol in a container that can only be opened with a tool (such as a corkscrew) is considered inaccessible.
- Open bottles of alcohol, and alcohol or illegal substances that are being served or consumed are considered in use and are prohibited when a child is in care.

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning

(15) The provider shall ensure that an outdoor source of drinking water, such as individually labeled water bottles, a pitcher of water and individual cups, or a working water fountain is available to each child when the outside temperature is 75 degrees or higher.

Rationale/Explanation

Clean, sanitary drinking water should be readily available, in indoor and outdoor areas, throughout the day. When children are thirsty between meals and snacks, water is the best choice. Drinking water helps maintain a child's hydration and overall health. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 4.2.0.6 p.p. 167.

Compliance Guidelines

- The outdoor temperature can be measured by any available electronic means including a cell phone.
- Drinking water may come from a hose as long as the hose is attached to a source of culinary water (the same water that is used inside), and not a secondary water source (such as water used to irrigate or water gardens and lawns).
- Water must be accessible to the children in their play area. If a drinking fountain is behind a closed gate, it is not considered available and is a rule violation.

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning when:

Children do not have an outdoor source of drinking water and the temperature is 90 degrees or higher.

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning otherwise.

(15) The provider shall ensure that areas accessible to children are free of heavy or unstable objects that children could pull down on themselves, such as furniture, unsecured televisions, and standing ladders.

Rationale/Explanation

Children have suffered serious injuries and death due to unstable heavy equipment falling on them. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that:

- Every 30 minutes a child in the U.S. is injured as a result of a TV or furniture tip-over incident.
- On average, one child dies every two weeks from being crushed by a television set.

CPSC recommends the following to help prevent tip-over accidents:

- Anchor furniture (including entertainment units, TV stands, bookcases, shelving, and bureaus) to the floor or wall using appropriate hardware, such as brackets, screws, or toggle bolts.
- Place televisions on low, sturdy furniture or a base manufactured for that purpose.

- Place televisions on other furniture only if the furniture is anchored to the wall or floor, the TV is pushed as far back on the furniture as possible, and the TV is anchored to the wall or the anchored furniture.
- Keep remote controls, toys, and other items that might attract children off TV stands or furniture.
- Keep TV and/or cable cords out of reach of children.
- Make sure freestanding kitchen ranges and stoves are installed with anti-tip brackets.
- Never leave children alone in rooms where these safety tips have not been followed.

For more information, refer to:

- [Anchor It](#)
- [Anchor for Safety: TV and Furniture Tip-Over-Related Deaths and Injuries Not Slowing Down](#)

Compliance Guidelines

- Heavy furniture or other objects that are higher than 3 feet must be stable, secured, or anchored. This includes:
 - Freestanding kitchen ranges and stoves, entertainment units, TV stands, bookcases, shelving, and bureaus that are higher than 3 feet.
 - Vehicles on jack stands or blocks, piles of wood, bales of straw, stacked cinder blocks or other solid objects that are stacked.
- Furniture or a heavy object that is noticeably unstable will be out of compliance.
 - Unstable furniture means that the furniture is compromised in some way (e.g missing or loose legs, leaning, etc.). A dresser with more than one fully open drawer will be considered unstable.
- If the stability of furniture or a heavy object is in question and cannot be verified solely through observation, the provider must be able to demonstrate that the object is stable. Otherwise, it will be considered unstable and a rule violation.
- It is out of compliance if there is a heavy object (such as a TV) on unstable furniture of any height.
- Only screens that are larger than 19 inches and accessible to children will be assessed.
 - Accessible means that the screen and/or attached cords are lower than 48 inches.
 - If necessary to determine the size of the screen, measure the screen diagonally from corner to corner on the inside of the frame. For more information, visit: www.wikihow.com/Measure-a-TV.
 - Even if the equipment screen is inaccessible, if the equipment cords are accessible so children could pull the screen down, the screen must be anchored.
- If the screen is larger than 19 inches and accessible, it must be securely anchored, mounted, or tied to a stable structure to be in compliance with rule. A television that is built into a stable cabinet or similar piece of furniture is considered anchored.
- A 19-inch or smaller screen or TV is not required to be anchored.

- A laptop screen is not required to be anchored.
- Any accessible stepstool or ladder that is taller than 5 feet and is leaning against a structure (such as a wall, shed, or tree) is considered unstable.
- Ladders permanently attached to a structure, stepstools and ladders measuring 5 feet or less, “Inverted V” ladders standing in an open position, and ladders lying down are not out of compliance.

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning

(16) The provider shall ensure that hot water accessible to children does not exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Rationale/Explanation

Tap water burns are a common source of scald injuries in young children. Children under six years of age are the most frequent victims of non-fatal burns. Water heated to temperatures greater than 120°F takes less than thirty seconds to burn the skin. If the water is heated to 120°F it takes two minutes to burn the skin. That extra two minutes could provide enough time to remove the child from the hot water source and avoid a burn. CFOC 4th ed. Standard 5.2.1.14 p.p. 230.

Compliance Guidelines

- When there is only one hot water heater in the building, the water temperature will be measured at only one handwashing sink used by the children.
- When there is more than one hot water heater in the building, the water temperature must be assessed in one handwashing sink connected to each hot water heater.
- Hot water will be measured by holding a thermometer in the running water until the temperature stops rising.
- In an effort to conserve water, there is no need to continue measuring once the temperature reaches 128 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Water temperature will be measured at each portable sink and each sink with a mixing valve that is used by children.
- If a hot water tank indicates the water temperature on a digital gauge, this measurement will be used as the assessment. In this case, there is no need to assess the water temperature at a handwashing sink connected to the water heater.
- Water faucets with motion detector shut-offs do not ensure compliance with this rule.
- Due to the variable accuracy of hot water thermometers, this rule is not considered out of compliance unless the temperature measures 123 degrees Fahrenheit or hotter.

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning when:

The water temperature is 128 degree Fahrenheit or higher.

Risk Level

Low

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Warning when:

The water temperature is between 123 and 127.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

(17) The provider shall ensure that tobacco, e-cigarettes, ejuice, e-liquids, and similar products are inaccessible and, in compliance with the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act, not used:

- (a) in the facility or any other building when a child is in care;**
- (b) in any vehicle that is being used to transport a child in care;**
- (c) within 25 feet of any entrance to the facility or other building occupied by a child in care; or**
- (d) in any outdoor area or within 25 feet of any outdoor area occupied by a child in care.**

Rationale/Explanation

Scientific evidence has linked respiratory health risks to secondhand smoke. No children, especially those with respiratory problems, should be exposed to additional risk from the air they breathe. Infants and young children exposed to secondhand smoke are at risk of severe asthma; developing bronchitis, pneumonia, and middle ear infections when they experience common respiratory infections; and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) CFOC 4th ed. Standard 3.4.1.1 p.p. 127.

This rule is in accordance with the [Utah Indoor Clean Air Act](#).

Compliance Guidelines

Tobacco and similar products such as the following must be inaccessible and not used on the premises, in vehicles, or in the presence of any child in care:

- Ashtrays with cigarettes and cigarette butts
- Chewing tobacco
- Cigars
- Cigarettes and cigarette butts
- E-cigarettes and E-liquid (E-juice)
- Pipes

- Vaporizers (not to be mistaken for a humidifier or steam vaporizer)

Risk Level

High

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation and CMP Warning when:

Tobacco or a similar product is used any place indoors, in a vehicle, or within 25 feet of the entrance or exit of the building, a window, the outdoor play area, or a child.

Risk Level

Moderate

Corrective Action for 1st Instance

Citation Warning when:

Tobacco or a similar product is accessible to any child in care.